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Mole Cricket Experiment

Golf Course Superintendents or other Turfgrass Managers:

I need your help in a State-wide experiment on mole crickets which I am conducting. We are beginning to see increased mole cricket activity at this time of year, and insecticide treatments may be needed to prevent extensive damage. For this study I need the following:

1. When you treat with insecticides, collect all the dead mole crickets from a treated area large enough to get about 1 quart jar full of them (be sure to collect before the birds arrive in the morning or collect right after treatment) – collect all stages please.
2. I need mole crickets from all species of turf (Bermuda, bahia, St. Augustinegrass, etc. (please keep specimens from each grass separate).
3. Fill a quart or larger jar about one half full with alcohol (rubbing alcohol is OK) and collect the crickets directly into it, then finish filling the jar with alcohol.
4. Label the jar with the following information: Size of the collection area, chemical and method of treatment used, date, grass variety, golf course, address, and collector.
5. Call (305) 475-8990 to let me know you have the samples, and either send them to me or drop them by the Research Center in Ft. Lauderdale.

Mole crickets from this study will be used in several ways. First, we can determine which species is most important in damaging turfgrass. If only one species is prevalent, then this will aid in future research; that is, we can concentrate on one species instead of two as we are now doing. We will also be able to determine the species distribution across the State. Finally, we can search these specimens for presence of any natural parasites or predators.

Your assistance in this study and support of our program is greatly appreciated.

Dr. James A. Reinert
Professor of Entomology

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